Why GRADUATE STUDIES in HEALTHCARE QUALITY?

This two year, part-time, interdisciplinary course-based program consists of seven (7) core courses and a supervised project leading to a Master of Science in Healthcare Quality (MScHQ) degree that will prepare you for practice, research and education in the developing area of Healthcare Quality, Risk and Safety. Ensuring patient safety and minimizing risk are crucial concerns of those working in healthcare related fields. The MScHQ provides professionals with the knowledge and tools to research, advocate and implement strategies for risk reduction and quality improvement within the healthcare system.

Why QUEEN’S?

The Master of Science in Healthcare Quality (MScHQ) at Queen’s is the first online program of its kind in Canada, specializing in linking theory and practice in quality, risk, and safety in healthcare. We offer interdisciplinary courses, led by leaders in their fields, convenient distance learning and valuable international exposure. Unparalleled in its scope, the new Master of Science in Healthcare Quality is the only program in Canada to address the growing need for interactions across disciplines, professions and communities. Join us on the forefront of improving healthcare quality, risk, and safety in Canada and worldwide.

Program STRUCTURE

MScHQ (2 years, part-time study): Online, course-based with two (2) 1-week in-person intensive courses; seven (7) required courses and a supervised project.

Part-Time STUDIES

The Master of Science in Healthcare Quality degree program will be delivered on a part-time basis over two years by a multidisciplinary team from the Faculties of Health Science, Law, and Engineering as well as the Schools of Business and Policy Studies at Queen’s University. The multidisciplinary team of experts in the areas of quality, risk and safety will provide learners with a unique opportunity to link theoretical foundations with practical application.

Our program is designed for working professionals who would like to pursue a graduate degree. The majority of courses are delivered through interactive online classes and independent learning, but students will be expected to attend two, one-week intensive on campus sessions in July/August of your first and second year of the program. Students will be expected to carry between 1-2 courses at a time.

Required COURSES

- HQRS 840 - Introduction to Quality, Risk and Safety (in Kingston)
- HQRS 841 - Process Improvement in Healthcare
- HQRS 842 - Research and Evaluation Methods to Assess Quality, Risk & Safety
- HQRS 847 - Public Policy, Economics, and Quality Healthcare
- HQRS 846 - Human Factors in Healthcare (in Kingston)
- HQRS 845 - Organizational Behaviour in Healthcare
- HQRS 844 - Law, Risk and Healthcare
- HQRS 898 - Project in Healthcare Quality (Final project)

Program HIGHLIGHTS

- Study where you work and live
- Build on your academic education or enhance your career with advanced knowledge and skills
- Learn about healthcare quality from an interdisciplinary perspective
- Spend time with a cohort of peers during your one-week intensive courses at Queen’s University in Kingston, Canada, in each year of study
- Experience team-based learning with other students
- Network with students, alumni, and leaders in this emerging field
- Complete a supervised project on a topic of your choice
**Healthcare Quality MSc(HQ) MAP**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE (HEALTHCARE QUALITY) MSc(HQ)**

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### GETTING STARTED

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- Start with key priorities like getting set up in online courses.
- Attend the first intensive in-person session.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expansion Horizons professional development workshops, the Graduate Coordinator, and the SGS Habitat.

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**MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT**
- Start to think about the audiences for your research project.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Healthcare Quality Research Forum.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

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**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**
- Monitor the online student community and other healthcare quality community for job postings or skill development workshops.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expansion Horizons.
- Start keeping an e-portfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning, Envol or SGS901 or the PUTI, certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

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**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and more.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

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**BUILD YOUR CAREER**
- Considering a career change? Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop or meeting with a career counselor.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Monitor the online student community and program social media for job postings or opportunities.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni.
- Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.
- If you are considering a PhD or applying to medical school check out the program requirements so you can have a good head start.

### INTERMEDIATE STAGE

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**
- A graduate degree in Healthcare Quality can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:
  - Knowledge and technical skills
  - Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
  - Information management: prioritize, organize, and synthesize large amounts of information
  - Time management: Meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
  - Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
  - Creativity and innovation
  - Perseverance
  - Independence
  - Teamwork: experience as a collaborative effort
  - Awareness: an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
  - Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
  - Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion
  - Interprofessional Education foundations

**WHERE CAN I GO?**
The Master of Science in Healthcare Quality program is designed for young professionals or mid- to senior-level executives who wish to continue to work full time, while pursuing an advanced degree. Professionals that may be well suited to taking the Master of Healthcare Quality are:
- Lawyers
- Engineers
- Business professionals
- Healthcare administrators
- Healthcare Information Technologists (IT)
- Healthcare professionals
- Policy advisor
- QL Leader/QL focus to your profession

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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**WRAPPING UP**
- Complete your coursework, begin to research and work on your major project (IRP).
- Attend the second intensive in-person session.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Healthcare Quality Research Forum.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in difficult forums: casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expansion Horizons, WPTACs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Contact the MScHQ Program for contacts and career opportunities.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’sConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Consider joining professional associations like Health Sciences Association.

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### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

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Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen's, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

Where can I get help?

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the SGS HABITAT for available resources.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- **Grade requirements:** Graduated from an accredited, baccalaureate-granting University with a minimum of a second class standing of a B or 73% (GPA 3.0).
- Received a preferred degree in healthcare discipline, law, business, engineering, or policy studies.
- Have an undergraduate course in statistics and evidence of an understanding of research methodology and/or quality improvement experience.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- A statement of interest in the program is required to match the applicant’s academic and work experience with the objectives of the program.
- Current curriculum vitae.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application deadline:** February 1.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FEES?

- **Application Fee:** $105CAD
- **Course Fees:** $13,324.98CAD per year
- **Additional Fees:** $1500CAD program fee

Visit the Office of the University Registrar for more information on program fees.